Attorney Docket No. LUKP:108US

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/791,123

Reply to Office Action of December 2, 2005

Date: March 2, 2006

**Current Status of the Claims** 

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the

application:

Claim 1. (currently amended) A drivetrain comprising a friction clutch for decoupling a

transmission from an internal combustion engine having an input part, at least one output part

that can be decoupled from the input part and at least one disengagement device, the at least one

output part in the force-free state being decoupled from the input part and, by means of the at

least one disengagement device, being brought into frictional engagement with the input part,

and the at least one disengagement device being formed of a master cylinder and a slave cylinder

that is in operative connection with the master cylinder via a hydraulic line, wherein in the

hydraulic line between the master cylinder and the slave cylinder is a pressure relief device that

sets back a pressure applied between the master cylinder and the slave cylinder when actuated,

wherein the pressure relief device is operable by the driver via an actuating device.

Claim 2. (original) The drivetrain as described in Claim 1, wherein the friction clutch is

implemented as a dual clutch having an input part and output parts that are each rotationally

connected to a transmission input shaft, in each case a disengagement device actuating an axially

displaceable annular part that is rotationally connected to the input part.

Claim 3. (original) The drivetrain as described in Claim 2, wherein the two disengagement

devices are each provided with a pressure relief device.

Claim 4. (cancelled)

Claim 5. (previously presented) The drivetrain as described in Claim 3, wherein the two

pressure relief devices are operable via a single actuating device.

Claim 6. (previously presented) The drivetrain as described in Claim 1, wherein two pressure

relief devices for a dual clutch are mounted within one housing.

Claim 7. (previously presented) The drivetrain as described in Claim 1, wherein at least one

pressure relief device is integrated in a master cylinder or slave cylinder.

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Claim 8. (currently amended) The drivetrain as described in Claim [[4]] 1, wherein the

actuating device is a selection lever for selection of the drive mode of the transmission by the

driver in operative connection with a pressure relief device.

Claim 9. (previously presented) The drivetrain as described in Claim 8, wherein the pressure

relief device is operated as a function of the position of the selection lever.

Claim 10. (previously presented) The drivetrain as described in Claim 9, wherein an operation

of the pressure relief device occurs at least in the drive mode Neutral (N) and/or Park (P).

Claim 11. (previously presented) The drivetrain as described in Claim 9, wherein on operation

of the pressure relief device does not occur at a selection position Drive (D) or Reverse (R) or in

a manual drive mode (+, -).

Claim 12. (previously presented) The drivetrain as described in Claim 1, wherein the pressure

relief device has an input-side feed and an output-side discharge and between them a chamber is

provided with a dead volume that is expandable via an axially displaceable piston that is sealed

off from the chamber against the action of an energy storage device if the force on the piston due

to the pressure in the pressure line is greater than the axial force of the energy storage device

acting on the piston, and the piston with regard to its axial displacement is released from the

operative connection.

Claim 13. (previously presented) The drivetrain as described in Claim 8, wherein the operative

connection is a Bowden cable connected to the actuation device.

Claim 14. (previously presented) The drivetrain as described in Claim 8, wherein the operative

connection is an electrical operative connection.

Claim 15. (previously presented) The drivetrain as described in Claim 8, wherein the operative

connection is an actuated pin that is connected to an electrically operated switch that is

connected to the actuation device.

Claim 16. (original) The drivetrain as described in Claim 14, wherein the operative connection

acts on an electrically actuated valve that is in connection with a switch provided on the

actuation device.

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Claim 17. (previously presented) The drivetrain as described in Claim 14, wherein the electrical operative connection is in connection with an electrical valve that directly forms the pressure relief device.

Claim 18. (previously presented) The drivetrain as described in Claim 14, wherein the electrical operative connection actuates the pressure relief device in the de-energized state.

Claim 19. (currently amended) The drivetrain as described in Claim 9, wherein the operation of the pressure relief device does not occur is delayed for 0.1 to 1 s when there is when shifting between the drive modes Drive (D) and Reverse (R) when passing through the selection lever position for Neutral (N), the time is one second or less.

Claim 20. (previously presented) The drivetrain as described in Claim 9, wherein operation of the pressure relief device is delayed after selection of the drive mode Neutral (N) by a specified delay time.

Claim 21. (original) The drivetrain as described in Claim 20, wherein the delay time lies in the range between 0.1 and 1s.